

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 4, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Thomas Watts, a pensioner, praying to be allowed back pay, beg leave to report:*

They find that the petitioner was a private in the Georgia volunteers, in the war of 1812, and for a wound received in the battle of Kalebee swamp was placed on the roll of invalid pensioners on the 21st of August, 1852, at the rate of eight dollars per month. He now asks that his pension may be made to commence from the passage of the act of 1816, and alleges that the reason why he did not make application for the benefits of that act at an earlier period was, that he was in affluent circumstances. Poverty, alone, brought on by "security debts," prompted him to make his application in 1852.

The committee are not willing, except, perhaps, in cases of extraordinary merit, to recommend any variation from the law of 1822, which prescribes that all pensions shall commence from the date of the completion of proof, nor are they able to discover in the case of this petitioner any good reason for a departure from that law; they, therefore, recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be denied.

